

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-10-EA

PROJECT NAME: James Murphy Permit Renewal # 0501776

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: All or part of T9N R79W sec 12, 13 and 24
T9N R78W sec 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 17 and 19

APPLICANT: James Murphy

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background: Allotment # 07072 includes 2,882 acres of BLM-administered public land. The allotment has an improve "I", allotment priority.

Grazing allotments in the Kremmling Field Office are prioritized for management according to one of three levels: maintain, improve or custodial. For improve allotments, the BLM must improve forage production and condition in grazing allotments that are in unsatisfactory condition.

As part of the past grazing permit on allotment # 07072 (Mann Draw), a mutual agreement between Jim Murphy and the Kremmling Field Office was developed in 1998. The agreement specified the BLM and Jim Murphy would build new fences, develop water sources, and implement a 3-pasture rotation system. Since 1998, numerous fences, ponds, and wells have been developed, with the exception of one fence and another well so a 3rd pasture could be created. However, it was determined the 3rd pasture was not needed due to construction costs.

The BLM is proposing a new deferred grazing system (Attachment #3) that would alternate the start date for each pasture. As part of the new proposed grazing plan, yearlings would be authorized at a conversion of 1.5 yearlings for Cow/Calf pair. See Alternative #1 for further details.

The allotment was assessed on-the-ground by a BLM Interdisciplinary Team for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (standards) in 2005 and was determined to be in compliance with all of the standards.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing permit # 0501776 that authorizes livestock grazing on allotment # 07072 (Mann Draw) (Attachment #1) (see map below):

- The permit would be renewed for 10-years (through February 28, 2018).
- The Standard Terms and Conditions are included in Attachment #2.
- There would be no changes to the kind or number of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized preference expressed in Animal Unit Months (AUMs).
- The 1998 mutual agreement that requires the completion of a new fence and new well would be implemented as soon as funding is available.

The renewed livestock grazing permit would authorize grazing to the following extent:

Allotment	Livestock		Season of Use		% Public Land*	AUMs**
	Number	Kind	Begin	End		
07072 (Mann Draw)	233	Cattle	5/30	7/2	100	260

*% Public Land is the percentage of forage within the public land (BLM) portion of the allotment.

**AUM = animal unit month = amount of forage required to support 1 cow and calf for 1 month.

Total AUMs that would be authorized for this permit is 261.

Alternative #1: Alternative #1 would authorize grazing to the same extent as the Proposed Action with the exception of a new deferred grazing system (see Attachment #3):

- Livestock would graze two pastures during the grazing period.
- The two pastures would allow for a deferred rotation grazing system where one pasture would be used early and the second pasture later within the season of use.
- The early and deferred use would be alternated on a yearly basis.
- Yearlings would be authorized at a conversion of 1.5 yearlings for Cow/Calf pair.

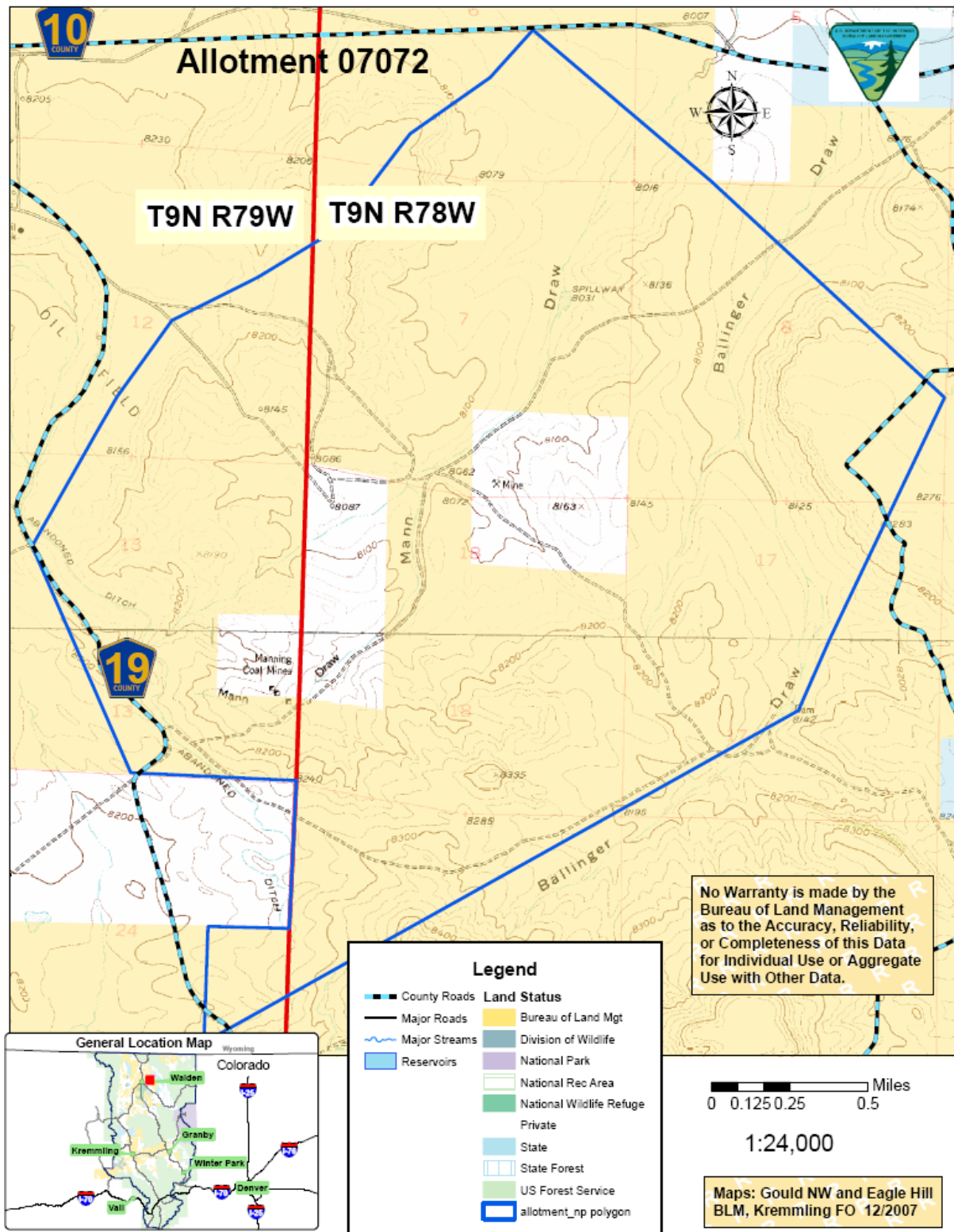
No Action Alternative (Continuation of Current Management): Livestock grazing authorized under the No Action Alternative would be the same as that authorized on the expiring grazing permit. Thus, the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives would have the same impacts.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis (No Grazing Alternative): No livestock grazing was considered but eliminated from further analysis for the following reasons:

- Livestock grazing within the Kremmling Field Office was fully analyzed and authorized in the RMP/EIS as recorded in the 1984 Approved Plan and Record of Decision. At that time a “No Grazing Alternative” was considered but not selected.
- This alternative is not consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) that states: “the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from public lands”
- During the public scoping and staff review there were no issues or concerns identified that would support a “No Grazing Alternative.”

- It has been determined that significant progress toward achieving compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado would occur with the appropriate livestock grazing guidelines set forth in the Proposed Action.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The BLM is acting on a permit renewal request from James Murphy for BLM permit # 0501776. The permits are subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to 10-years. If approved, the permits would be renewed for a period of 10-years.



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984

Decision Number/Page: Livestock Grazing pages 6 through 8 as revised

Decision Language: Objectives of the RMP/ROD include allocation of a base level of livestock forage and maintaining or improving forage production and condition in areas where livestock grazing is a priority or compatible with the land use priority. Allotment # 07072 has land-use priority of oil and gas and coal.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

The following table is a summary of the current situation and the total number of acres that have been assessed. A BLM Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) assessed the allotment for compliance with the standards in 2005. The IDT determined the allotment was in compliance with all standards,

but a part of the allotment was “Functioning at Risk” for vegetation. However, this did not affect the ability of the allotment to meet standards.

CURRENT SITUATION Total # of Acres Assessed in allotment #07072 (2,882 acres) Total acres assessed 2,882				PROPOSAL (With Mitigation)	
Standards	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving	Causative Factors	Acres Achieving or Moving towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving
Std. 1 Upland Soils	2,882	0		2,882	0
Std. 2 Wetlands	0.2	0		0.2	0
Std. 3 Vegetation	2,882	0		2,882	0
Std. 3 Wildlife	2,882	0		2,882	0
Std. 4 T&E		0			0
Std. 5 H2O Qual.	2,882	0		2,882	0
Totals	2,882			2,882	

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Environmental Justice, Native American Religious Concerns, Farmlands- Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Wastes- Hazardous or Solid, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action, Alternative #1, or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Range permit renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g., fences, spring improvements) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment was completed for each allotment in January and February 2007 following the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Livestock Grazing and Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, and IM-CO-00-026. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. Copies of the cultural resource assessments are in the Kremmling Field Office archaeology files.

Allotment Number	Acres Inventoried at a Class III level	Acres NOT Inventoried at a Class III Level*	Percent -%- of Allotment Inventoried at a Class III level	Number of Cultural Resources known in allotment	High Potential of Historic Properties (yes/no)	Management Recommendations (Additional inventory required and historic properties to be visited)
07072	100 ac.	2,782 acres	3%	12	Yes	Portions of the allotment have been surveyed under a Class III inventory but the surveys are no longer acceptable. Need a Class III on approximately 2,782 acres. Relocate and evaluate sites 5JA745, 5JA529, 5JA530, 5JA1226, and 5JA1023.

Environmental Consequences: The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate include trampling, chiseling and churning of site soils, cultural features and cultural artifacts, artifact breakage and impacts from standing, leaning and rubbing against historic structures, above ground cultural features and rock art. Indirect impacts include soil erosion, gullying and increased potential for unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties.

Mitigation:

-A Class III field inventory would be completed within the ten-year expiration period of the grazing permit. Mitigation would be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) if historic properties were located during the subsequent field inventory and BLM determined that grazing activities would adversely impact the properties.

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MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A variety of migratory bird species, primarily birds of prey and songbirds, use the allotment. Surveys conducted in 1994 by the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Partnership recorded many species in the area including Swainson's hawks, Red-tailed hawks, Golden Eagles, Green-tailed Towhees, Mountain Bluebirds, Sage Thrashers, Spotted Towhees, Rock Wrens, and Common Nighthawks in the sagebrush habitat common to the allotment.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the Proposed Action, the permit would be renewed without any changes. Since there would be no changes to the permit, the Proposed Action is expected to maintain current conditions for migratory birds. Alternative #1 would implement a new deferred grazing plan which would require livestock to be moved between two pastures to help prevent livestock from grazing the same vegetation multiple times during the season-of-use. This type of system would be more beneficial to migratory birds since grass and

forb production would likely increase as compared to the continuation of current grazing management. The deferred grazing system would provide for better plant vigor and thereby would produce more plant material available for bird use, especially by those species that nest on the ground.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the proposed project area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 31, 2008. Analysis of this list indicated that no threatened, endangered, or candidate species have been recorded in the allotment proposed for renewal.

Greater sage-grouse, a BLM-designated Sensitive Species, inhabit allotment # 07072. One sage-grouse strutting ground (lek) is located within the northern part of the allotment and four more leks are within 4-miles of the allotment boundary. The allotment also includes suitable nesting cover and winter habitat for sage-grouse. Since research has determined that 80% of sage-grouse hens nest within 4-miles of the leks where they are bred, nesting is occurring in this allotment.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the Proposed Action, the permit would be renewed without any changes. Since there would be no changes to the permit, the Proposed Action would maintain current conditions for Greater sage-grouse. Alternative #1 would be more beneficial to sage-grouse since the deferred grazing plan would help prevent livestock from grazing the same vegetation multiple times during the season-of-use. This system would increase grass and forb productivity in the allotment where nesting and wintering habitat occurs. The increase in production would enhance sage-grouse nesting success since more cover would be available to conceal nests from predators and adverse weather. Brood survival would also increase since more cover and food would be available as they migrate to adjacent brood-rearing habitat.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Allotment # 07072 was assessed for standards in 2005 and found to be meeting Standard 4. The allotment would continue to meet this standard under both alternatives, but would improve under Alternative #1.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Allotment # 07072 is located in the North Platte River Basin, primarily in the Canadian River 5th order watershed. The southern tip of the allotment is located within the Michigan River 5th order watershed. The allotment has one perennial water source (Box Spring) and relies on wells and impounded snowmelt for livestock water. There are five impoundments on the allotment. Mann Draw and Ballinger Draw are the two ephemeral draws that drain towards the north-northeast to the Canadian River approximately a ½ mile away. The small acreage that drains to the south towards Dry Creek would be intercepted by two irrigation ditches prior to reaching the creek.

Due to the lack of perennial water, there is no water quality monitoring on Mann Draw, Ballinger Draw, or Dry Creek. From the soils, moderate slopes, and vegetative conditions, there are no suspected water quality concerns. The Canadian River and Michigan River are considered to be

meeting state water quality criteria and supporting their designated uses. Box Spring is a developed spring and reservoir in Ballinger Draw. During the 1980s spring inventory, a water quality sample was taken, with parameters acceptable for agricultural uses. In 1983, the spring was reconstructed and the spring source excluded from livestock grazing.

Environmental Consequences: Livestock use has tended to be uneven within the allotment, with use heaviest along Ballinger Draw. The IDT assessment determined the western portion of the allotment had larger interspaces than its potential, and rated it as “functioning at risk” for vegetative cover. The continued need for grazing management was noted to improve the watershed conditions within the allotment.

The Proposed Action would continue present conditions until a new well and fence could be funded and constructed. At that time, a 3rd pasture would be created, allowing for a new rotation system. This would improve livestock distribution and continue to improve vegetative and watershed conditions. Alternative #1 would not wait for the additional livestock improvement projects, and would provide a deferred grazing period for the two existing pastures on alternating years and allow yearling use, which would also result in better livestock distribution. These two changes would help improve vegetative vigor and improve overall cover, helping to protect watershed conditions. Improving the vegetative cover helps reduce runoff from leaving the allotment and carrying sediment loads to livestock ponds or to the Canadian River.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The allotment is considered to be meeting Standard 5, but continued improvement of the vegetation would ensure long-term watershed health. Both the Proposed Action and Alternative #1 would help the allotment improve, but the Proposed Action would not be fully implemented until funding allows for additional livestock improvement projects. Alternative #1 could be implemented immediately and would not preclude future livestock improvement projects.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Box Spring reservoir supports a small wetland area that is predominantly grass species, with some sedge/rush areas nearer the shoreline. The area around the spring source is excluded from grazing and properly functioning. The pond area is grazed, but is in fair to good condition, and was reconstructed in 2007.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action and Alternative #1 would help the Box Spring area by continuing the grazing system. The Proposed Action’s improvements and 3rd pasture would reduce grazing pressure on the Box Spring area, but would not occur immediately. Alternative #1 would be implemented in 2008, with an alternating deferment for the Box Spring area. Yearlings also tend to use upland areas more and not camp in the drainages like the cow/calf pairs. This would also help improve the vegetative vigor and maintain the wetland health.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The area is considered to be meeting the Standard, and both the Proposed Action and Alternative #1 would help the area continue to meet the Standard.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The Jackson County Soil Survey maps the allotment as having many soil groups, with the predominant (58%) mapping unit being the Fleutsch-Tiagos association. This association of fine sandy-sandy loam soils supports Valley Bench/Dry Mountain Loam range sites. The allotment is also mapped as having Cryorthents in the allotment, with one mapping unit located just north/northeast of the Murphy Well area in the western portion of the allotment. These soils generally occur on steep slopes and are classified as Dry Exposure sites. The actual terrain does not match this description, but it may indicate a soil occurrence that is less productive than the surrounding soils. The field assessment noted wider interspaces than desired, which may be a result of soils with lower production potential, or the soil's response to management.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The allotment appears to be responding to the 1998 grazing system, even though there have been several drought years. The Proposed Action would help improve the vegetative cover and available litter, protecting soils from erosion and increasing available litter for soil incorporation. This would be dependant on available funding and a successful well. Alternative #1 would also help improve the vegetation by providing grazing deferment on alternating years and authorizing yearlings that tend to distribute more evenly across an allotment than cow/calf pairs. Alternative #1 would not preclude the additional projects required by the Proposed Action, and they could be constructed if needed in the future.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The allotment's soils are considered to be meeting the Standard, although continued grazing management is needed to insure long-term soil health. Both the Proposed Action and Alternative #1 would result in management that would help maintain soil health.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Allotments # 07072 (Mann Draw) is comprised of a mixture of sagebrush with an understory of grasses. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) is the dominant shrub with minor amounts of antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp). Grasses and forbs make up the majority of the forage available to livestock and wildlife. Prevalent grasses include bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), pine needlegrass (*Stipa pinetorum*), needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and bluegrasses (*Poa* spp). Forbs that are found include buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), rose pussytoes (*Antennaria rosea*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), chiming bells (*Mertensia* spp), penstemon (*Penstemon* spp), lupine (*Lupinus* spp), and milkvetch (*Astragalus* spp), among others. The forb component can vary greatly in species.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the Proposed Action, the permit would be renewed without any changes. The old AMP plan would continue. This would require more

range improvements. Under Alternative #1 a new deferred grazing plan would be implemented. The new plan would require livestock to be moved between 2 pastures. This grazing system would help prevent livestock from grazing the same vegetation multiple times during the season of use. The lack of multiple defoliations would provide for better plant vigor.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Allotment # 07072 was assed for standards in 2005. Two stops were completed, and the allotment was noted to be functioning.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The allotment provides habitat for a variety of upland wildlife species. Pronghorn, elk, mule deer, coyotes, badgers, and a variety of small rodents inhabit the allotment at least part of the year. Elk and pronghorn use the allotment primarily during winter while the others listed above are generally yearlong residents.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the Proposed Action, the permit would be renewed without any changes. Since there would be no changes to the permit, the Proposed Action is expected to maintain current conditions for terrestrial wildlife. Alternative #1 would implement a new deferred grazing plan for allotment # 07072 which would require livestock to be moved between two pastures to help prevent livestock from grazing the same vegetation multiple times during the season of use. This type of system would be more beneficial to terrestrial wildlife since grass and forb production would likely increase as compared to the Proposed Action. This additional vegetation would be especially important to elk and pronghorn that use the allotment during winter.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): Allotment 07072 was assed for standards in 2005 and found to be meeting Standard 3. Under the both the Proposed Action and Alternative #1 it will continue to meet this standard, however it will likely improve under Alternative #1.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Livestock grazing has been an important use of the public lands in the Kremmling Field Office since the introduction of domestic livestock in the 1870s. Presently, the Field Office supports a grazing program on approximately 378,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands. Currently, these public ranges are licensed at a level of approximately 39,726 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for livestock.

For the purpose of this EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is North Park. The Kremmling Field Office is divided east to west by the Continental Divide. The public lands to the north of the divide are generally referred to as North Park, and those to the south of the divide, Middle Park. In North Park, there are approximately 260,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands that are currently being grazed, and 26,656 AUMs that are licensed.

In looking at past actions within the geographic area over the past ten years, there have not been any major changes to the North Park allotments. A majority of the allotments have been assessed for standards and the permits modified where needed due to non-compliance with specific standards or new information that has arrived (i.e. new sage grouse lek). The allotment was assessed on-the-ground by a BLM Interdisciplinary Team for compliance with the Standards for

Public Land Health in Colorado (standards) in 2005 and was determined to be in compliance with all of the standards.

In looking at reasonably foreseeable actions, the Coalmont area in southern Jackson County has seen recent interest in oil and gas development. There is a potential this activity could have a cumulative impact on North Park allotments in the future depending upon the extent of development. Other reasonably foreseeable actions that are projected to occur include minor range improvement projects.

In terms of cumulative impacts to cultural resources, grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties throughout the Kremmling Field Office. However, as part of the BLM permit renewal process, allotments are being assessed and inventoried for cultural resources. If resources are found, and eligible for NRHP, mitigation is implemented. This process is attempting to mitigate any major cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the Kremmling Field Office.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Starting in February 2007, a scoping process was begun to request information concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases and to prioritize areas or allotments with issues and concerns. The Field Office sent scoping letters, along with land status maps showing the affected allotments, to the following groups and agencies: Colorado Division of Wildlife (Steamboat, Walden, Hot Sulphur Springs, Ft Collins); District Board of Grazing Advisors; County Commissioners (Grand, Jackson); Stock Growers (Middle Park, North Park, Upper Big Laramie River Ranch Assoc.); Northwest Resource Advisory Council; United States Forest Service (Silverthorne, Granby, Walden); US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arapaho Wildlife Refuge); Tribal Councils (Arapaho, Shoshone, Southern Ute); Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; Ute Indian Tribe Uintah & Ouray Agency Business Committee; Colorado Environmental Coalition; Colorado State Land Board.

The BLM Colorado State Office also mailed outreach letters, concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases, to all Congressional offices, State and Federal agencies, and major environmental, conservation, and user group organizations.

In addition, individual letters were sent to the affected permittees/lessees informing them that their permit/lease was up for renewal and requested any information they wanted included in, or taken into consideration, during the renewal process. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the Internet, at the Colorado BLM home page, asking for public input on permit/lease renewals and the assessment of public land health standards within the Field Office. This notice was followed up in October with an Internet posting of the Field Office prioritization of allotments and a determination as to which allotments would be assessed according to the land health standards. The proposed project was also posted on the Kremmling Internet NEPA Register.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that Alternative #1 will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to implement Alternative #1's new deferred grazing plan (see Attachment #3) and renew livestock Grazing Permit # 0501776 until February 28, 2018. The new permit will be subject to the mitigation measures included below.

RATIONALE: Alternative #1 was chosen because it would result in better livestock distribution, improve vegetative vigor and overall cover, protect watershed conditions, produce more plant material available for bird use, especially by those species that nest on the ground, and improve habitat conditions for sage-grouse.

When a livestock grazing permit/lease expires, it is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. Livestock grazing, when properly managed in accordance with good rangeland ecology practices, has been proven to result in improved land health. The public benefits from public lands which are maintained in a healthy condition and are able to produce sustainable resources for a variety of uses.

The livestock producer benefits from a renewed livestock grazing permit/lease to graze forage on BLM managed land. Livestock grazing on BLM managed land is an integral part of the livestock producer's operation, and an important part of local rural economies

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Cultural:

-A Class III field inventory will be completed within the ten-year expiration period of the grazing permit. Mitigation would be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) if historic properties are located during the subsequent field inventory and if BLM determines that grazing activities would adversely impact the properties.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing permit and its associated terms and conditions will be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Range Management Program. Livestock grazing will be monitored by the range staff and other area personnel, as appropriate, to ensure compliance. The Kremmling Field Office Range Monitoring Plan will be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and

evaluate allotment condition. When activity plans have been developed covering an allotment, monitoring methods and schedules included in them will be applied to the allotment. Changes will be made to the permit, based on monitoring, when changes are determined necessary to further protect land health.

Monitoring of Manville Draw and the low lying areas must be done and additional management implemented, if necessary, to maintain or improve watershed conditions.

NAME OF PREPARER: Peter Torma

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 5/5/08

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Dave Stout

DATE SIGNED: 5/6/08

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1). Livestock grazing permit # 0501776
- 2). Standard Terms and Conditions
- 3). New deferred grazing plan

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Robert Swift Permit Renewal

Project Leader: Peter Torma

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	NA	NA	BW	
Native American	4/14/08		Torma	See below
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	NA	NA	P. Belcher	

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

(N/A) = Not Applicable

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality Belcher	4/19/08	PB	Air quality would not be impacted by the issuance of the grazing permit.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Stout	5/5/08	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
PI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	4/30/08	BW	See analysis in EA.
NP	Environmental Justice Stout	5/5/08	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique Belcher	4/19/08	PB	There are no farmlands in or adjacent to the allotment.
NP	Floodplains Belcher	4/19/08	PB	The allotment occurs in the uplands and would not impact the floodplain.
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species Torma	3/10/08	PT	Allotment # 07072 has no known infestation of invasive, non-native species. An invasive, non-native species stipulation is included in the Standard Terms and Conditions of each livestock grazing permit (Attachment #2). The stipulation informs the permittee of their responsibility to notify the BLM of any invasive, non-native species growing in their allotment. If invasive, non-native species do become established or spread in the allotment, control measures would be implemented by the BLM, in partnership with the Jackson County

					Weed Abatement Program.
PI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	3/28/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	4/30/08	BW	Consultation was initiated on April 14, 2008 and to date no concerns have been received.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	3/28/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	12/28/07	KH	There are no known quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	4/19/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	4/19/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	4/19/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Torma	2/10/08	PT	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	3/28/08	MM	No aquatic wildlife is present in allotment 07072. Finding: N/A.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	3/28/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	4/23/08	JJM	No impact to access or transportation.
NP	Fire	Wyatt	4/30/08	BW	No impacts, reduces fuel loading.
NI	Forest Management	Rosene	3/26/08	RAR	No impacts
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	12/28/07	KH	No impacts
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	4/19/08	PB	No hydrologic concerns or impacts to water rights.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	2/10/2008	FGR	No impacts from renewing permit. Ground disturbing impacts would be reviewed to determine the need for Paleontological inventory.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	4/23/08	JJM	No impact of noise disturbance.
NI	Range Management	Torma	3/20/08	PT	There is no change in AUMs season of use. The only change is under alternative #1 the current grazing system would be replaced with a new livestock grazing system that would move cattle into two pastures. There would be no impact to livestock grazing in either action.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	1/16/08	SC	There are leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There are multiple ROWs for telephone lines, electric lines, pipelines and a BLM auto tour. There should be no impact to these ROWs from the proposed action.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski	4/23/08	JJM	No Impact. Some hunting, wildlife watching, well interpretation via a self guided tour and

				OHV opportunities exist, however this opportunity is not affected during the grazing period.	
NI	Socio-Economics	J. Stout	5/5/08	JS	Since there would be no change in use, there would be no socio-economic impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Hodgson	4/14/08	KH	No changes to the permit are proposed. Therefore, there would be no new impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.
PI	Cumulative Impact Summary	J. Stout	5/1/08	JS	See analysis in EA.
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	Stout	5/5/08	JS	
	Field Manager	D. Stout			